

eight children, she showed, even during the time when her world was peopled chiefly with dolls and fairies, distinct signs of the Nursing faculty; for as certain as illness appeared in the near neighbourhood, her dolls were invariably attacked with a similar complaint, and required a deal of nursing attention before they recovered their customary health. But the training for her future sphere of work soon took more human shape. The daughter of a clergyman has always no lack of opportunities to help, comfort and relieve the poor and suffering, and from an early age Miss Thorold utilized these opportunities to the utmost.

In 1866 she decided to undergo a systematic training for the Nursing profession, and forthwith entered University College Hospital as a Lady Probationer; and in 1870 was asked by the Chairman of the Weekly Board of the Middlesex Hospital to become the Lady Superintendent of that Institution in succession to Miss Martyr, who had resigned in consequence of ill-health, and whose substitute she had been on one or two previous occasions. Since entering upon the arduous duties of that office, Miss Thorold has had very little leisure; for she has so completely identified herself with her Hospital that its history, during the last 24 years, has been hers. Indeed, it is universally recognised in the Nursing profession that the very high, and in some respects unique, position which the Nursing department of the Middlesex Hospital now holds is entirely due to Miss Thorold.

However, she gets six weeks' holiday in the year; and of the month in the summer she makes the very best use in which to treasure up happy recollections of pleasant travels in Germany, in Ireland, in America, and elsewhere. She finds her great recreation in reading; and the bent of her mind may be gauged from the fact that her favourite authors are Lecky, Hallam, Ruskin, and such-like classics; while she also enjoys theological literature—a taste which is shown also in other directions, by her visits to the Ober-Ammergau Valley, and by the deep interest which she takes in the miniature chapel recently erected in the Hospital by the talented architect, Mr. Pearson. Of this chapel she is justly proud, for the work has been executed with great taste; the mosaics of the roof over the tiny chancel, the marble dado and the organ loft all contribute to give a most pleasing effect. It only requires two additions to make it perfect, and those are a suitable organ, and some decoration above the dado of the nave.

Miss Thorold takes great interest in all that concerns the welfare of women generally, but naturally she regards with special interest those who make it their life work to tend the sick. When she first entered the profession, however, it did not hold the high position it does to-day, thanks to the efforts of the Royal British Nurses' Association. To this Society, from its first inception, Miss Thorold gave her powerful and unflinching support, and the opinion in which she is held by the leaders of the Nursing profession, who are associated with her in the Royal Chartered Corporation, is sufficiently shown by the fact that for some years past she has been chosen to act as the Nurse Vice-Chairwoman of the Executive Committee and General Council. Miss Thorold took an active part in the foundation of the Registered Nurses' Society, and is a member of its Committee of Management. She is engaged in many other good works, and to all of them her advice and assistance is invaluable.

Medical Matters.

MEGRIM.



A BELGIAN physician has recently devoted considerable care and attention to this very common and troublesome complaint, and divides it into three varieties. The first includes those cases in which there is aching of one side of the head with the nausea, vomiting and other disturbances which are usually found associated in the common "sick" or "bilious" headache; the second variety may follow on, or alternate with, the first, and is accompanied by various disturbances, and even some loss of sensation or muscular power; but the author does not hold that this is a species of epilepsy. The third variety is marked by intense headache, and terminates very suddenly on the appearance of a marked degree of paralysis of the third nerve, which may last for some days or even for some weeks. In the opinion of the writer, anæmia is the most strongly predisposing cause amongst women, and, therefore, iron is chiefly recommended as a medicinal means of treatment. He quotes various cases to show that a complete change of employment often appears to remove the tendency to these attacks of migraine. But, in this country, it is found to be almost invariably associated either with marked disturbance of the general health, or with affections of the digestive organs.

THIRST AFTER ABDOMINAL SECTION.

An American observer has recently discussed the well-known fact that after abdominal section has been performed, the patient, as a rule, suffers from very considerable thirst, and enters at great length into the possible reasons for this result. He finally arrives at the somewhat obscure conclusion that direct and reflex irritation of the sympathetic nerves of the abdomen, caused by the operation, induces a contraction of the arteries, and a consequent withdrawal of water from the abdominal viscera. A more simple explanation, and one which would be more supported by clinical facts, is that such patients are, for some hours before an abdominal section, and for a good many hours after it, deprived of all fluid by the mouth; that the effects of the anæsthetic are to cause dryness of the mouth and mucous membranes in consequence of the excessive secretion which they first set up; and last, but by no means least, is the fact that in an abdominal section there is always some, and very often a great deal of, hæmorrhage, which in itself would account for a considerable amount of thirst on the part of the patient, without any

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